

“**Antonyms** are words of the same grammatical class (Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, etc.) that have opposite meanings.” **David Green**

**Antonyms** are of **two** kinds —

- (i) The first kind of Antonyms are those that are formed by the addition of **Prefixes** or **Suffixes** before or after some words.
- (ii) The second kind of Antonyms are those words that have opposite meanings to the given words without having any etymological relationship with them—

The Antonyms that are formed by the addition of some Prefixes or Suffixes have been discussed in detail above in **chapter 18 (Formation of Words)**. In that chapter a **Complete list** of Antonyms so formed has also been given. Therefore, the student should study this part of **chapter 18** carefully before studying the present chapter.

The Antonyms of the second category are independent words, which are not bound by any rules. Therefore, a long list of such Antonyms has been given below for the student's ready reference. Meanings of difficult words have also been given.

Above :	below or beneath.
Abstract :	
(unreal, conceptual only)	concrete (real)
Accept :	reject
Acquit : (to set free)	condemn (to punish)
Advance :	retreat
Affirm : (accept, admit)	deny (refuse)
Affluence : (prosperity)	poverty (being poor)
Aggravate : (increase)	alleviate or lessen (reduce)
Agree :	differ
Allow :	forbid

Analysis : (breaking up) (combination)	synthesis
Ancestor : (forefathers)	descendant (coming down from ancestors)
Ancient : (old)	modern (of the present time)
Aristocrat :	commoner
Arrive :	depart
Ascent : (rising)	descent (declining)
Assent : (agree)	dissent (disagree)
Asset : (capital)	liability (debit side)
Attract :	repel
Awake :	asleep
Barren : (unproductive)	fertile (productive)
Base :	noble
Beautiful :	ugly
Belief :	doubt
Benediction : (blessing)	malediction (curse)
Benevolence : (generosity)	malevolence (lack of generosity)
Bold :	timid
Bonafides : (Trustworthiness)	malafides (not trustworthy)
Boom : (rise)	slump (fall)
Bravery :	cowardice
Bright :	dim or dull
Carnal : (of the senses)	spiritual (of the spirit or soul)
Centrifugal : (moving away from the centre)	centripetal (drawn towards the centre)
Cheap :	dear or costly
Cheerful :	gloomy
Clean :	dirty

Clergy : (priest)	laity (common men)	Exclude : (leaving out)	include (counting in)
Clever :	stupid	Exit : (gate to go out)	entrance (gate to come in)
Common :	rare	Exotic : (foreign / strange)	indigenous (local / native)
Compulsory :	optional	Expand :	contract
Concord : (agreement)	discord (disagreement)	Explicit : (clear)	implicit (implied)
Confident :	diffident	Exterior : (outside)	interior (inside)
(having confidence)	(lacking confidence)	External :	internal
Convex :	concave	Extravagant : (wasteful)	frugal or thrifty (careful in spending)
Covert : (concealed)	overt (open)	Famous :	obscure
Create :	destroy	Fast :	loose or slow
Dark :	light	Fat :	lean or thin
Dawn :	dusk	Fictitious : (imaginary)	real
Debit :	credit	Flattery :	detraction
Debtor : (one in debt)	creditor (one who gives loans)	Float :	sink
Deduction : (from general to particular)	induction (from particular to general)	Forget :	remember
Deep :	shallow	Foreign : (of other countries)	native (of one's own country)
Defendant : (defending side)	plaintiff (complainant)	Frequent :	rare
Defensive : (on the defense)	offensive (one who offends)	Fresh :	stale
Deficit : (short balance)	surplus (saving, extra)	Friendly :	hostile
Deflate :	inflate	Full :	empty
Deliberate :	unintentional or accidental.	Gain :	loss
Democracy :	autocracy	Gather :	scatter
Diligent :	lazy	General :	particular or special
Dilute :	concentrated	Generous : (large-hearted)	mean (narrow-minded)
Dwarf :	giant	Gentle :	rough
Ebb :	flow	Genuine : (real / pure)	spurious (impure / imitation)
Efflux : (flow out)	influx (flow in)	Glut : (too much supply)	scarcity (short supply)
Egoism : (of the self)	altruism (of the others beyond self)	Gradual :	abrupt or sudden
Elevation : (rise)	depression (fall)	Grave :	gay
Emigrant : (citizens of our country settled in other countries)	immigrant (Foreigners settled in our country)	Guilty :	innocent
Exaggeration : (high estimation)	understatement (low estimation)	Harsh :	gentle
		Hasty :	leisurely
		Hate :	love
		Haughty :	meek

Heavy :	light	Landlord :	tenant
Help :	hinder	Lascivious : (sensual)	chaste (pure / holy)
Hero :	villain	Licentious :	moral (of noble character)
High :	low	(given to immoral habits)	virtuous
Hit :	miss	Lewd : (immoral, of low values)	(possessing good qualities)
Hollow :	solid	Later :	earlier
Homogenous :	heterogeneous	Latter :	former
(of the same kind)	(of a different kind)	Lead :	follow
Honour :	shame	Lend :	borrow
Hope :	despair	Let :	hire
Host :	guest	Liberate :	enslave
Hurt :	heal	Literal : (actual)	figurative
Ideal :	actual	(decorative)	
Idle :	busy	Loose :	tight
Imagination :	reality	Loquacious : (too talkative)	taciturn (gentle and soft-spoken)
Immanent : (indwelling)	transcendent (beyond the material world)	Lose :	find
Import :	export	Major :	minor
Increase :	decrease	Many :	few
Individual :	general	Marriage :	celibacy
Industrious : (hard working)	indolent or lazy (slow in working)	Masculine :	feminine
Inferior :	superior	Material :	spiritual
Inhale : (to breathe in)	exhale (to breathe out)	Maximum : (highest)	minimum (lowest)
Input :	output	Memory : (in remembrance)	oblivion (forgotten)
Insert :	extract	Microcosm :	macrocosm
Jolly, Jovial :	morose or gloomy	(in small measure)	(in large measure)
Joy :	sorrow	Mild :	stern or severe
Junior :	senior	Miser :	spendthrift
Justify : (to hold right)	condemn (to blame)	Monogamy : (system of one marriage only)	polygamy (system of many marriages)
Keen :	blunt or dull	Monotheism : (worshipping of one God only)	polytheism (worshipping of many gods)
Kernel :	shell	Monotony :	variety or diversity
Kill :	resurrect (to revive)	Motion :	rest
Kind :	cruel	Naive : (simple)	sophisticated (highly cultivated)
Kindle :	extinguish	Narrow :	broad
King :	subject	Native :	foreign
Knowledge :	ignorance	Natural :	artificial
Lament : (to weep in sorrow)	rejoice (to feel delighted)		

Nebulous : (hidden in mist)	distinct (clear)	Promote :	demote
Negative :	positive	Prow : (front part of the ship)	stern (back part of the ship)
Neutral :	partial	Public :	private
Niggard : (very greedy)	spendthrift (wasteful)	Quiet :	noisy
Noxious : (harmful)	wholesome (useful)	Queer :	normal
Observe :	reverse	Rash : (hasty)	cautious (careful)
Odd :	even	Rapid :	slow or leisurely
Offer :	refuse	Recede : (going backward)	advance (going forward)
Often :	seldom	Relative :	absolute
Omission : (leaving out)	commission (devoted to action)	Reluctant : (hesitant)	ready or willing
Optimistic : (hopeful)	pessimistic (hopeless / sad)	Remember :	forget
Oral :	written	Remitter : (he who sends)	receiver or recipient (he who receives)
Oriental : (of the East)	occidental (of the West)	Reserved :	sociable
Original : (real / first copy)	duplicate (false copy, not real)	Resist : (to stand against)	submit (to yield)
Orthodox : (believer in religion)	heterodox (non-believer in religion)	Retail :	wholesale
Ostensible : (showy)	actual (real)	Reward :	punish
Partly :	wholly	Ripe :	raw
Permanent :	temporary	Rise :	fall or set
Permit :	prohibit	Rough :	smooth
Philanthropist : (given to public good)	misanthropist (against public good)	Rude :	polite
Pleasure :	pain.	Sacred : (holy)	profane (unholy)
Practice :	theory	Safe :	risky or dangerous
Pragmatic : (practical)	idealistic (in ideal state only)	Saint :	sinner
Praise :	blame	Servant :	master
Precede : (coming before)	succeed (coming after)	Sharp :	blunt
Pride :	humility	Simple :	complex or complicated
Profit :	loss	Sink :	swim or float
Progress :	regress or retrogression	Smile :	frown
Progressive : (forward going)	reactionary or retrograde (backward going)	Sober :	drunk or rash
		Solid :	liquid
		Starboard : (right side of the ship)	port or larbord (left side of the ship)
		Straight :	crooked or curved
		Strait :	broad
		Strange :	familiar
		Subjective :	objective
		Succeed :	fail
		Sure :	doubtful

Sweet :	bitter or sour	Urban : (of the city)	rural (of the village)
Sympathy : (kind attitude)	antipathy (unkind attitude)	Urbane :	rude or uncultured
Tall :	short	Vacant :	occupied
Temporal : (physical)	spiritual or eternal (of the spirit / soul)	Vague :	clear or definite
Tense :	relaxed	Variable : (changing)	constant (fixed)
Terrestrial : (of the earth)	celestial (of heaven)	Vanguard : (front portion)	rearguard (back portion)
Thesis :	antithesis	Vertical : (standing, perpendicular)	horizontal (flat)
Thick :	thin	Victory :	defeat
Tight :	loose or slack	Virtue :	vice
Top :	bottom	Voluntary : (optional, free)	compulsory (obligatory)
Tranquil : (quiet)	Disturbed or agitated (unquiet)	Wake :	sleep
Transparent :	opaque	Wax : (grow)	wane (reduce)
Triumph :	defeat	Wealth :	poverty
Trivial :	important	Wide :	narrow
True :	false	Win :	lose
Unite :	separate	Wise :	foolish
Upper :	lower	Zenith : (highest point)	nadir (lowest point)
Upright :	dishonest		